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ten the methods of investigation and of writing have been those of a rather unscrupulous reporter trying to make a "good story" for his daily paper.

Not so with the book before us. This new life of Patrick Henry bears every indication of original research and thought; but at the same time has all the good and few of the bad features of the most crisp and up-to-date newspaper writing. It is a true book and emphatically a readable one.

Mr. Morgan has studied the life of the great orator with the most painstaking care and with full sympathy, and has made what will be for "the general reader the very best book on the subject ever written. Few but students have the opportunity to know Mr. Wirt Henry's massive and learned life of his grandfather; but Mr. Morgan's book (which has met with the hearty approval and received the assistance of Mr. Henry's family) is one which every Virginian and all others who are interested in American history should read.

It is one of the very few biographies of the heroes of the Revolutionary period which one reads, not merely for instruction or as a matter of duty; but with genuine pleasure. It may almost be said that there is not a dull page in it.

The illustrations, many of which are presented for the first time, have the great merit of all representing things the reader wishes to see.

PHILOSOPHIA ULTIMA OR SCIENCE OF THE SCIENCES. Vol. III. The Scientific Problems of Religion and the Christian Evidences of the Physical and Psychical Sciences. By the late Charles Woodruff Shields, D. D., LL. D., Professor in Princeton University. Charles Woodruff Shields, A Biographical Sketch. By William Milligan Sloane. New York, Charles Scribners' Sons. 1905.

From the point of view of a Virginia historical publication this book is of interest as containing a full and sympathetic study by Professor Sloane, of the life of his distinguished colleague. Dr. Shields was of Virginia descent and was a member of this Society.

THE LOYALTY OF THE CLERGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN VIRGINIA TO THE COLONY IN 1776 AND THEIR CONDUCT. By R. S. Thomas. Richmond, Wm. Ellis Jones, Book and Job Printer, 1907. [Printed for the Author], pp. 22.

Major R. S. Thomas, of Smithfield, Va., formerly historiographer of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, combats in this pamphlet the idea, which has been so generally accepted, that the clergy of the Established Church in Virginia were, in the main, opposed to the Revolution and loyal to England. He proves conclusively that this belief is

erroneous. In a few instances he may have mistaken passivity for loyalty to the colony. In the case of Alexander McRae there is no doubt of his mistake for Mr. McRae, a most exemplary man, undoubtedly made his sympathies for the Mother Country so well known, that he was taken from his house and severely beaten by some young Cumberland county rowdies.

By the same careful examination of the records Major Thomas has shown that the great majority of the ministers in 1775-6, were men of good character and unimpeached conduct.

ELLIS FAMILY OF VIRGINIA. [Privately printed, Richmond, 1907] pp. 64.

This is quite a full account of the well known Virginia family, descended from John Ellis, who settled in Henrico county in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

BRANCHIANA BEING A PARTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE BRANCH FAMILY OF VIRGINIA. By James Branch Cabell. "*Haec est vita salutorium misera ambitione gravique.*" Printed by Whittet & Shepperson, Richmond, Va. [1907], pp. 177. Illustrated.

This handsome book is an account, carefully prepared from the records of Henrico and Chesterfield counties of one line of the descendants of Christopher Branch, who came to Virginia in 1620 and was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1639. The compiler, who is well known in other fields of literature, has done his work with care; but if he had had as much experience in genealogies as in fiction, would have deemed it wiser to have omitted any account of English ancestry unless there was some proof of connection, (which he, however, does not claim) and would have recognized the importance of giving instances of the use of the arms given, by the early generations of the Virginia family. This thought is suggested not merely from the reading of this book (which is a very good account of one of the oldest of American families); but from the too-frequent occurrence of such things in very many American genealogical books.

There are also included accounts of the families of Wheelwright, Pride, Read (Welsh), Patteson, Osborne, &c.

CHECK-LIST OF BOSTON NEWSPAPERS, 1704-1780. By Mary Farwell Ayer. With Bibliographical Notes by Albert Matthews. Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Vol. IX. Boston. Published by the Society, 1907, pp. xvii, 527, with index.

During the period stated there were published in Boston alone, six-